



Coordinators' Communique

State Health Plan Prevention Partners

October/November 2005

Dear Prevention Partners Coordinator:

Preventive Worksite Immunization Services

Prevention Partners is pleased to announce that the following two healthcare providers have agreed to provide flu shots to state worksites. If either of these providers services your area of the state, you can contact them directly at the numbers listed below to inquire about having them come to your worksite.

Vendor: Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, LLC
809 82nd Parkway
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Contact: Joan Carroza, Director of Marketing at (843) 692-1053

Service Area: Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Little River, Surfside, Garden City, Atlantic Beach, and Carolina Forest.

Vendor: HealthWorks Of Palmetto Health
1333 Taylor Street, Suite 3-H
Columbia, SC 29220

Contact: Camille R. Moore, Director of HealthWorks at (803) 296-3500

Service Area: Richland, Lexington and surrounding counties, but requires minimum participation for travel 10 miles beyond downtown Columbia.

If the healthcare providers listed above do not provide service to your area of the state, try contacting your local hospital's community outreach department or your local health department.

When to Get Vaccinated

October or November is the best time to get vaccinated, but getting vaccinated in December or even later can still be beneficial. Flu season can begin as early as October and last as late as May.

Who Should Get Vaccinated?

In general, anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu can get vaccinated. However, certain people should get vaccinated each year. They are either people who are at high risk of having serious flu complications or people who live with or care for those at high risk for serious complications. During flu seasons when vaccine supplies are limited or delayed, including the 2005-06 season, CDC makes recommendations regarding priority groups for vaccination.

People who should get vaccinated each year are:

1.) People at high risk for complications from the flu:

- People 65 years and older;
- People who live in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities that house those with long-term illnesses;
- Adults and children 6 months and older with chronic heart or lung conditions, including asthma;
- Adults and children 6 months and older who needed regular medical care or were in a hospital during the previous year because of a metabolic disease (like diabetes), chronic kidney disease, or weakened immune system (including immune system problems caused by medicines or by infection with human immunodeficiency virus [HIV/AIDS]);
- Children 6 months to 18 years of age who are on long-term aspirin therapy. (Children given aspirin while they have influenza are at risk of Reye syndrome.);
- Women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
- All children 6 to 23 months of age;
- People with any condition that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions (that is, a condition that makes it hard to breathe or swallow, such as brain injury or disease, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other nerve or muscle disorders.)

2.) People 50 to 64 years of age. Nearly one-third of people 50 to 64 years of age in the United States have one or more medical conditions that place them at increased risk for serious flu complications.

3.) People who can transmit flu to others at high risk for complications. Any person in close contact with someone in a high-risk group (see above) should get vaccinated. This includes all health-care workers, caregivers of children 6 to 23 months of age, and close contacts of people 65 years and older.

Is CDC recommending that flu shots go to “priority groups”, as was recommended last season?

To ensure that those who are at highest risk of complications from influenza have access to vaccine this season, CDC recommends that people in certain priority groups receive inactivated influenza vaccine (i.e., the “flu shot”) until **October 24, 2005**:

- people aged 65 years and older, with and without chronic health conditions
- residents of long-term care facilities
- people aged 2–64 years with chronic health conditions
- children aged 6–23 months
- pregnant women
- health-care personnel who provide direct patient care
- household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children less than 6 months of age

Beginning October 24, 2005, all persons can get a flu shot.

Use of the Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine

It should be noted that vaccination with the nasal-spray flu vaccine is always an option for healthy persons aged 5-49 years who are not pregnant. This vaccine is not subject to prioritization and can be given to healthy 5-49 year olds at any time.

People Displaced by Hurricane Katrina

Influenza vaccination is recommended for all people 6 months of age and older who have been displaced by hurricane Katrina and are living in crowded group settings.

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